

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-276. (canceled)

277. (currently amended) Medical apparatus for placement in a patient, comprising:

implantable circuitry, having medical functionality, which is adapted to be placed in the patient;

a lead wire; and

~~an electrically-conductive~~ a hollow tube, which ~~hollow tube is entirely electrically-conductive and~~ is soldered directly to the circuitry, and which hollow tube is mechanically coupled to the lead wire so as to be electrically coupled thereto;

~~wherein the hollow tube is crimped to the lead wire, so as to be mechanically coupled thereto.~~

278. (canceled)

279. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 317 [[277]], wherein a portion of the lead wire is disposed within the hollow tube, and wherein the hollow tube is crimped to the portion of the lead wire.

280. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises MP35N.

281. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises platinum/iridium.

282. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises 1-60% iron by weight.

283. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises 1-40% iron by weight.

284. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises 1-20% iron by weight.

285. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 316, wherein the hollow tube is coated with gold prior to soldering directly to the circuitry.

286. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the hollow tube is treated with phosphoric acid prior to soldering to the circuitry.

287. (canceled)

288. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the circuitry is adapted to be incorporated in a catheter.

289. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the lead wire comprises a silver core.

290. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the hollow tube comprises stainless steel.

291. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the circuitry comprises a sensor.

292. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 291, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor.

293. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 291, wherein the sensor comprises a chemical sensor.

294. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 291, wherein the sensor comprises an electrode, adapted to sense electrical activity in tissue of the patient where the apparatus is placed.

295. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 291, wherein the sensor comprises a temperature sensor.

296. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 291, wherein the sensor comprises a flow sensor, adapted to sense a flow of blood in a vicinity of the apparatus.

297. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the circuitry comprises an active element.

298. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 297, wherein the active element comprises a stimulating electrode.

299. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 297, wherein the active element comprises a light source adapted to facilitate photodynamic therapy.

300. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 297, wherein the active element comprises an electroactive polymer.

301. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 297, wherein the active element comprises a mechanical actuator.

302-315. (canceled)

316. (previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the hollow tube is coated prior to soldering directly to the circuitry.

317. (new) The apparatus according to claim 277, wherein the hollow tube is crimped to the lead wire, so as to be mechanically coupled thereto.